

BELMONT VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes, February 6, 2003

[*Nota bene*: These notes stand in lieu of official minutes, since a quorum of the Committee was not present. They reflect the discussion among members present. No actions or decisions were taken.]

Members present: Jenny Fallon, Joe Greene, Tim Higgins, Meg O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon

Members absent: Martin Greco, Matt Hausmann, Bill Hofmann, Sara Oaklander, Barry Winston

Also Present: Delores Keefe

Convening the Meeting:

Jennifer Page called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

Organizational Matters

Minutes from January 23, 2003 were reviewed without objection but not approved due to lack of a quorum.

2. Report on Public Information and Communications Planning Group (PIC)

2.1 Jennifer Page reported that the PIC members have been contacted and are prepared to start meeting. Meg O'Brien was asked to contact them and start the PIC rolling (Martin Greco is out on business) by scheduling the first and additional meetings.

2.2 Jenny Fallon suggested that it might be a good idea to have a School Committee or a School Administration representative to PIC. She will speak to Kathy Miller, School Committee Chair, about how best to proceed.

3. Trapelo Road Project

3.1 Tim Higgins reported on the Trapelo Road project. He said that the kick off meeting featured an excellent presentation by the consultant about the current status of the corridor. However, disappointingly, it was poorly attended by the public.

3.2 A major question is how to get the public to attend and be more involved in this planning process. Members of the Committee offered to help by distributing flyers along the Belmont St.-Trapelo Rd. corridor, stuffing envelopes for a mailing to Town Meeting Members (TMMs) announcing the meetings and asking them to encourage interested citizens to attend. Tim will e-mail flyer to Meg O'Brien and Joe Greene will distribute to businesses and bus shelters along the corridor. E-mailing to BEDPG will hopefully involve BEDPG members along the corridor. Members present encouraged Tim to use the volunteer resources we can muster to support his valuable project.

3.3 It was noted that zoning changes will be an outcome of the project. Some people may not like the changes. A 2/3 vote of Town Meeting will be needed to support the plan; this will require repeated efforts to educate both TMMs and the public.

3.4 The schedule of meetings is

Feb. 13, 7PM, Selectmen's Office -- Working session will review current zoning districts as to "Where we are" and "What do we want?"

Feb. 25, 7PM, Conference Room 2, Town Hall -- Development of a goals statement "What do we want?"

March 13, 7PM Selectmen's Office

March 25, 7PM Selectmen's Office

4. Report: “Is Belmont Business Friendly?”

4.1. Jennifer Page distributed the final version of the report.

4.2 Jennifer Page reported that she met with Mary Ann Scali of the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee. Mary Ann objected to the mention of the Brothers Pizza as an example of a delayed beer and wine license. Members suggested to Jennifer, as editor, that (1) the individual establishment’s name and example and (2) the last sentence of Recommendation #2 in the Restaurants and Liquor Licensing section be struck, but that the remainder of that section and the essence of Recommendation #2 remain intact.

4.3 The report will be presented at the Selectmen’s meeting on Monday, February 10. Since the allotted presentation time will be 20-25 minutes, discussion followed about the most effective way to present the recommendations. It was informally agreed that we would present a brief summary of each recommendation, and schedule a meeting 4 weeks hence for discussion and decisions about those recommendations that the Selectmen cannot support on February 10.

5. Citizens Forum Presentation to VIC

5.1 Citizens Forum will present their slide show (15 minutes) at VIC’s next meeting. It contains pictures of Trapelo Road as it is today. This may support the Trapelo Road Project that the Town of Belmont has undertaken.

6. The Committee meeting adjourned at 8:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg O’Brien
Secretary Pro Tem